

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for a redundant interconnection between multiple hosts and a RAID, comprising:

a ~~plurality of~~first RAID controlling units and a second RAID controlling unit for processing a requirement of numerous host computers, the first RAID controlling unit including a first network controlling unit and a second network controlling unit, and the second RAID controlling unit including a third network controlling unit and a fourth network controlling unit; and

a plurality of connection units for connecting the ~~plurality of~~first RAID controlling units and the second RAID controlling unit to the numerous host computers, wherein ~~each of the plurality of~~first RAID controlling units and the second RAID controlling unit ~~includes a plural number of network interface controlling units for directly exchanging exchange~~ information with the numerous host computers ~~and a network interface controlling unit included in another RAID controlling units,~~ through the plurality of connecting units, and the first network controlling unit exchanges information with the fourth network controlling unit, and the second network controlling unit exchanges information with the third network controlling unit.

Claim 2 (Original): The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said respective RAID controlling units are connected to the plurality of individual connecting units.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein ~~said plural number of the network interface controlling units are a~~ the first network interface controlling unit being connected is coupled to the connecting unit of one side and ~~a~~ the second network interface controlling unit being connected is coupled to the connecting unit of another side.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein

the first network interface controlling unit and the third network interface

controlling unit processes the requirement of the numerous host computers; and
the second network interface controlling unit and the fourth network
controlling unit ~~is are~~ used for communication between the respective first RAID
controlling units and the second RAID controlling unit when the respective first and
second RAID controlling units are not faulty and the second network interface
controlling unit and the fourth network controlling unit ~~is are~~ used for executing a
function of the first network interface controlling unit and the third network
controlling unit ~~included in the respective RAID controlling units~~ when the
respective one of the first RAID controlling unit and the second RAID controlling
unit is faulty.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as recited in claim 1,
wherein said plurality of connecting units have at least three connection ports ~~more~~
~~than three, the two~~ of the at least three connection ports ~~among them being is~~
~~connected coupled to said one of the first~~ network interface controlling unit and the
third network controlling unit and the rest of the connection ports ~~thereof~~ being
provided as a hub equipment connected with the numerous host computers.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as recited in claim 1,
wherein said plurality of connecting units have ~~the~~ at least three connection ports
~~more than three, the two~~ of the at least three connection ports ~~among them being are~~
~~connected coupled to said one of the first~~ network interface controlling unit and the
third network controlling unit and the rest of the connection ports ~~thereof~~ being
provided as a network switch equipment connected with the numerous host
computers.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as recited in claim 1,
wherein said plurality of connecting units have ~~the~~ at least five connection ports
~~more than five, the four~~ of the at least five connection ports ~~among them being~~
~~connected is coupled to said one of the first~~ network interface controlling unit and
the third network controlling unit and the rest of the connection ports ~~thereof~~ being
provided as a switch connected with the numerous host computers.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~said RAID controlling unit, said network interface controlling unit and said connecting unit are respectively constructed in a pair,~~ the first network interface controlling unit of ~~a~~ the first RAID controlling unit being connected to a first connecting unit, the second network interface controlling unit of said first RAID controlling unit being connected to a second connecting unit, the ~~first~~ third network interface controlling unit of ~~a~~ the second RAID controlling unit being connected to the second connecting unit, and the ~~second~~ fourth network interface controlling unit of the second RAID controlling unit being connected to the first connecting unit.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An apparatus for a redundant interconnection between multiple host computers and a RAID, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of connection units for connecting the host computers and the RAID;

a first and a second RAID controllers, included in the RAID, each of which having a first network interface controller and a second network interface controller for processing requests from the plurality of the host computers connected through the plurality of the connection units,

wherein the first network interface controller in the first RAID controller supplies data to the host computers connected through the plurality of connection units and processes information transmitted from the second network interface controller in the second RAID controller,

wherein the first network interface controller in the second RAID controller supplies data to the host computers connected through the plurality of connection units and processes information transmitted from the second network interface controller in the first RAID controller,

wherein the second network interface controller in the first RAID controller is used for fault tolerance by performing functions of the first network interface controller in the second RAID controller when the second RAID controller is faulty, and

wherein the second network interface controller in the second RAID controller is used for fault tolerance by performing functions of the first network

interface controller in the first RAID controller when the first RAID controller is faulty, and

wherein the first network controlling unit in the first RAID controlling unit exchanges information with the second network controlling unit in the second RAID controlling unit, and the second network controlling unit in the first RAID controlling unit exchanges information with the first network controlling unit in the second RAID controlling unit.